

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RULE 2202 - ON-ROAD MOTOR VEHICLE MITIGATION OPTIONS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

~~June 6, 2014~~ Proposed - August 4, 2023

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I. BACKGROUND

A. Summary

Rule 2202 has been designed to reduce emissions from ~~mobile sources~~motor vehicles used by employees for commute purposes. The Rule provides employers with a menu of options that they can choose from to implement and meet the emission reduction target (ERT) for their worksite.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for compliance with the provisions of Rule 2202. The various emissions reduction strategies and trip reduction strategies currently contained in the Rule that employers can implement and receive credit towards their ERTs are listed below.

Emission Reduction Strategies (Subdivision (f))	Trip Reduction Strategies (Subdivision (g))
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobile Source Emission Reduction Credits (MSERCs) (Regulation XVI)• Air Quality Investment Program• Short Term Emission Reduction Credits (STERCs) from Stationary Sources (Regulation XIII)• Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) from Stationary Sources (Regulation XIII) approved for transfer prior to June 6, 2014.• Area Source Credits (Regulation XXV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peak Commute Trip Reductions• Other Work-Related Trip Reductions• Off-Peak Commute Trip Reductions• Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Programs

~~As an alternative to meeting the ERT at their worksite, the Rule allows the employers optional implementation of an Employee Commute Reduction Program (ECRP). Implementation details of this strictly optional program are included in the ECRP Guidelines. The Rule 2202 – On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options Implementation Guidelines outlines the framework, calculation methodology, and criteria used in determining emission reductions credits and vehicle trip emission credits (VTECs) that can be applied towards meeting emission reduction targets (ERT).~~

An employer would comply with the provisions of the rule by submitting an Emission Reduction Strategy (ERS). The ERS submittal will describe the ERT calculation and how it will be implemented to meet the worksite's ERT.

As an alternative to meeting the ERT at their worksite, the Rule allows the employers optional implementation of an Employee Commute Reduction Program (ECRP). Implementation details of this strictly optional program are included in the ECRP Guidelines.

B. Emission Reduction Target (ERT)
(R2202, subdivision (e))

Employers subject to Rule 2202 are required to implement an emission reduction program and meet an annual ERT for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) and Carbon Monoxide (CO). Figure I-1 outlines the equation used to determine the ERT for each pollutant.

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Emission} \\ \text{Reduction Target} \\ \text{(lbs/year)} \end{array} \right] = \left[\text{Employees} \times \frac{\text{Employee Emission}}{\text{Reduction Factor}} \right] - [\text{VTEC}]$$

Figure I-1. Emissions Reduction Target Determination

The employer's emission reductions can be further reduced through generation of Vehicle Trip Emission Credits (VTECs) from the implementation of optional trip reduction strategies. These VTECs, obtained through peak and off-peak commute trip reductions, other work-related trip reductions, or vehicle miles traveled (VMT), can be applied towards meeting an employer's ERT. Credit for any program must go beyond the requirements of existing state and federal programs to avoid "double counting" the emission reductions. All emission credits are valid according to the conditions, guidelines, or regulations under which they were originally issued.

C. Pollutants Considered

Vehicle trips are responsible for the emissions of VOC, NO_x, and CO. Most trip reduction programs reduce emissions by similar relative amounts. Emission reduction strategies, however, aimed primarily at reducing emissions rather than trips, may reduce emissions by different relative amounts. Rule 2202 is designed to reduce emissions of VOC, NO_x, and CO, by an equal or greater amount to that achievable through trip reduction. Rule 2202 allows employers to select and implement a combination of emission reduction strategies and meet the site-specific ERTs for VOC, NO_x, and CO.

II. EMISSION REDUCTION STRATEGIES

The emission reduction strategies considered in this document may include old-vehicle scrapping, clean on-road vehicles, clean off-road vehicles, other programs under Regulation XVI, STERCs, area source credits, and the Air Quality Investment Program. In addition, companies can meet the emission reduction requirements, in whole or in part, by obtaining sufficient VTECs.

A. Employee Commute Reduction Program (ECRP)

(R2202, paragraph (f)(1))

Any employer may elect to implement an ECRP. The implementation of an ECRP is expected to lead to achievement and maintenance of the employer's designated Average Vehicle Ridership (AVR) target, determined by the worksite's AVR Performance Zone pursuant to Rule 2202 (1)(3) through the reduction of employee vehicle trips. The ECRP compliance option is further detailed in the Rule 2202 ECRP Guidelines.

B. Air Quality Investment Program (AQIP)

(R2202, paragraph (f)(2))

The concept of an AQIP is based on relative cost-effectiveness. Employers may participate in the AQIP by submitting an air quality investment, to be placed in a restricted fund as set forth in Rule 311 - Air Quality Investment Program Fees.

The South Coast AQMD Executive Officer will recommend to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board the release of request for proposals (RFP) to solicit projects that will achieve the emission reduction targets for a given compliance period. At a minimum, the release will be on a semi-annual basis.

Proposals for using monies from the restricted fund will be accepted by the South Coast AQMD Executive Officer on an ongoing basis. The South Coast AQMD Executive Officer will determine the amount of emission reductions required to demonstrate equivalent emissions reductions and the amount that will be achieved by the proposal. The quantification protocols shall be consistent with conditions specified under section F. Other Emission Reductions Strategies. The proposals received will be rated by source category, including a category for TDM projects. The Executive Officer will then recommend to the Governing Board proposals that achieve equivalent emissions reductions. The Executive Officer may use inter-pollutant crediting to achieve emissions equivalent to the level of the employers' participation. The AQIP emission reduction commitment will be based on the rule emission factors for the current year in question regardless of when the initial monies were placed into the program. In addition, the Executive Officer will recommend that the allocation of funding for proposals that reduce equivalent emissions within each county be proportional to the contribution level of employers within each county to the greatest extent feasible. As part of the RFP release, the Executive Officer will provide to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board a status report on program effectiveness and the balance of monies in the fund.

A.C. Mobile Source Emission Reduction Program Credits (MSERCs)
(R2202, paragraph (f)(~~43~~))

Any person may elect to use mobile source emission reduction credits (MSERCs) issued in accordance with the provisions of Regulation XVI - Mobile Source Offset Programs. Regulation XVI sets forth the requirements that are based on voluntary programs that achieve emission reductions beyond those required by local, state and federal regulations or programs. Any person may generate MSERCs through the voluntary implementation of any Regulation XVI program and apply them toward meeting the ERT for their site or trade and/or sell them to other persons. Alternatively, employers that have a shortfall in meeting their ERTs can purchase surplus MSERCs from other employers or a credit vendor. Credits issued under Regulation XVI programs are subject to the quantification, issuance, and credit life restriction of the applicable rules and may be used for Rule 2202 as well as other SCSouth Coast AQMD rule compliance that authorizes such use.

B.D. Short Term Emission Reduction Credits (STERCs)
(R2202, paragraph (f)(~~35~~))

Employers may elect to use STERCs issued in accordance with Regulation XIII – New Source Review. In order for STERCs to be used to meet employers’ emission reductions target or as part of an Air Quality Investment Program, the following apply for purposes of use in Rule 2202:

1. Only STERCs issued in accordance with Rule 1309 - Emission Reduction Credits and Short Term Credits shall be allowed for use in Rule 2202.
2. STERCs are subject to the application, eligibility, registration, use, and transfer requirements in Rule 1309.
3. STERCs issued pursuant to Rule 1309 may be used only if the original ERC was generated on or after January 1, 1996. The credit generation date is defined as the original date the SCSouth Coast AQMD issued the official Certificate of Title, not the date when the emission reductions occurred or when the ERC or Certificate was split or transferred.
4. For the purposes of Rule 2202, STERCs will be converted into annual emissions (lbs/year). The average number of operating days used in the original ERC evaluations shall be the basis for converting the STERC to annual emissions. If the number of operating days is unspecified, the default value of 260 days will be used for the number of operating days. Such conversions shall be done at the time when the STERCs are transferred to the Rule 2202 program.

5. STERCs, issued pursuant to Rule 1309(f), shall be transferred into the Rule 2202 program as one year increments.
6. Any person transferring a STERC into Rule 2202 shall submit an application for the transfer of each certificate and pay the applicable per certificate transfer fees in accordance with Rule 301 – Permitting and Associated Fees. Upon approval and transfer into the Rule 2202 program the original Certificate of Title shall be cancelled and the cancellation recorded in the NSR Register of Title.
7. STERCs can only be used in the Rule 2202 program during the specific calendar year for which the STERC is valid.
8. STERCs in the Rule 2202 program may be divided among several worksites.
9. The permanent credit portion of the STERC, if any, issued pursuant to Rule 1309(f)(1), are subject to the requirements below governing ERCs.

C.E. Emission Reductions Credits (ERCs)

(R2202, paragraph (f)(24))

Employers may elect to use ERCs that were approved for transfer into the program before June 6, 2014 and were issued in accordance with Regulation XIII. In order for ERCs to be used to meet an employer's emission reduction target or as part of an Air Quality Investment Program, the following apply for purposes of use in Rule 2202:

1. ERCs that have been transferred into the Rule 2202 program shall permanently remain in the program, unless specified pursuant to section C.2. below.
2. The original ERC certificate may be transferred out of the Rule 2202 program at any time in accordance with the following conditions:
 - (a) None of the original ERC certificate has ever been used in any discrete year to comply with any requirement of this rule since the initial transfer into the Rule 2202 program;
 - (b) The applicant submits an application for transfer and applicable fees, and receives approval of the Executive Officer, based on a determination that none of the original ERC certificate has been used. Upon approval by the Executive Office and reissuance of an ERC certificate, the ERCs may be used in any District program authorizing use of such ERCs except Rule 2202; and,
 - (c) The amount of ERC certificate to be reissued in pounds per day shall be based on the amount that was transferred into Rule 2202 minus the 10% originally discounted when the ERC was initially transferred into the program.
4. For purposes of Rule 2202, ERCs shall be converted into an annual allocation of pounds per calendar year. The average number of operating days used in the original ERC evaluations shall be the basis for converting the ERC pounds per day (lbs/day) to the annual allocation (lbs/year). If the number of operating days is unspecified, the default value of 260 days will be used for the number of operating days. Such conversions shall be done at the time when the ERC is transferred to the Rule 2202 program.

5. Annual allocations are only available for use in the calendar year for which it was allocated. Unused portions of the annual allocation cannot be banked or rolled-over for future use. The annual allocation may be divided and used by multiple employers for meeting their ERT.
6. The initial annual allocation shall be based on the date the ERC Certificate of Title was transferred into the Rule 2202 program.
7. Effective January 1, 2015, the existing broker account ERCs will be annually discounted beginning the eighth year after the initial date of transfer into Rule 2202 and shall have their initial 10% discount restored on January 1st of the eighth year. The initial 10% discount was taken in accordance with SCSouth Coast AQMD policies for the transfer of ERC into Rule 2202.
8. Each year on January 1st, the annual discount shall be determined by the percent change between the year of use and the previous year emission factors expressed as pounds per year per daily commute vehicle as determined by the most recent California Air Resources Board CARB and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) ~~EPA~~ approved EMFAC emission model as follows:

$$\text{Current Year Annual Allocation} = \text{Previous Year Annual Allocation} * \frac{ef_{\text{current year}}}{ef_{\text{previous year}}}$$

Where:

ef = Emission factor in pounds/year/daily commute vehicle

ef_{current year} = Emission factor for the current year of use

ef_{previous year} = Emission factor for the year immediately prior to the current year of use

The annual discount percentages (i.e., *ef_{current year}* / *ef_{previous year}*) will be published annually.

9. If Rule 2202 is rescinded, all ERCs held in the Rule 2202 program shall be permanently retired and will no longer be available for use unless otherwise specified in section C.2. above.

D.F. Area Source Credits (ASCs)
(R2202, paragraph (f)(46))

Regulation XXV - Intercredit Trading provides an opportunity for employers to generate or obtain emission reductions from alternative sources and apply them towards meeting the ERT for their site or trade them to other employers or persons in accordance with paragraph (f)(4) of the Rule. Regulation XXV emission credits that are used in Rule 2202 are subject to the same limitations on quantification, credit issuance, credit life, and eligibility, as set forth in that regulation.

Area source credit generation is a voluntary program and provides a mechanism to convert emission reductions from non-permitted stationary sources into tangible emission credits. Area sources include a wide variety of sources, such as small combustion equipment including engines, heaters, and boilers.

E. ~~Air Quality Investment Program (AQIP)~~
 (~~R2202, paragraph (f)(5)~~)

~~The concept of an AQIP is based on relative cost effectiveness. Employers may participate in the AQIP by submitting an air quality investment, to be placed in a restricted fund as set forth in Rule 311—Air Quality Investment Program Fees.~~

~~The SCAQMD Executive Officer will recommend to the SCAQMD Governing Board the release of request for proposals (RFP) to solicit projects that will achieve the emission reduction targets for a given compliance period. At a minimum, the release will be on a semi-annual basis.~~

~~Proposals for using monies from the restricted fund will be accepted by the SCAQMD Executive Officer on an ongoing basis. The SCAQMD Executive Officer will determine the amount of emission reductions required to demonstrate equivalent emissions reductions and the amount that will be achieved by the proposal. The quantification protocols shall be consistent with conditions specified under section F. Other Emission Reductions Strategies. The proposals received will be rated by source category, including a category for TDM projects. The Executive Officer will then recommend to the Governing Board proposals that achieve equivalent emissions reductions. The Executive Officer may use inter-pollutant crediting to achieve emissions equivalent to the level of the employers' participation. The AQIP emission reduction commitment will be based on the rule emission factors for the current year in question regardless of when the initial monies were placed into the program. In addition, the Executive Officer will recommend that the allocation of funding for proposals that reduce equivalent emissions within each county be proportional to the contribution level of employers within each county to the greatest extent feasible. As part of the RFP release, the Executive Officer will provide to the SCAQMD Governing Board a status report on program effectiveness and the balance of monies in the fund.~~

~~F.G. Other Emission Reduction Strategies~~
 (~~R2202, paragraph (f)(6)~~)

Any person may submit an application, pursuant to paragraph (f)(6) of the Rule, to generate VOC, NO_x, and CO emission reductions from alternative emission reduction projects for use in Rule 2202. Applications, with complete information, shall be submitted at least 30 days prior to implementing an emission reduction project. The Executive Officer shall approve or disapprove the application and any subsequent revisions in writing within 90 days of submittal.

1. The application shall be submitted on a form specified by the SCAQMD, and at a minimum include the following:
 - a. Project description;
 - b. Name and address of the applicant;
 - c. Name and address of the owner and/or operator of the equipment;

- d. Identification of the geographical area(s) served by the project;
- e. Equipment description (including manufacturer specifications, certification data, etc.);
- f. Project start date;
- g. Project life;
- h. Activity level (such as, hours of operation, fuel usage, odometer mileage);
- i. Estimated emission reductions;
- j. Emission reduction calculations, description of methodology used and references; and
- k. Monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting methods, including methods for tracking project emission reductions.

2. The alternative emission reduction project shall be subject to the following conditions:

- a. For meeting District regulatory requirements, the credits issued under paragraph (f)(6) shall only be used for R2202, and shall be subject to all provisions of Rule 2202.
- b. The SCAQMD shall approve all emission reductions prior to use.
- c. The emission reductions shall be valid for two years from the date of SCAQMD approval unless otherwise specified in the approved emission reduction quantification protocols developed in paragraphs 2d. and 2e. below.
- d. The emission reduction quantification shall be based on applicable SCAQMD rules and regulations, approved methodologies, Governing Board policies and guidelines, and the guidelines and methodologies established by CARB and EPA. The emission reduction quantification protocol shall be reviewed by the Governing Board Mobile Source Committee.
- e. If there is no applicable protocol, an emission reduction quantification protocol shall be developed. The proposed emission reduction quantification protocol shall be presented to the Governing Board Mobile Source Committee for review and approval.
- f. Emission reductions generated under this provision shall not be the result of funding from any other SCAQMD, state or federal program that prohibits the use of such reductions for other purposes (e.g., AB2766 subvention funding, Carl Moyer, etc.).
- g. Emission reductions achieved by the project shall be based on the actual operation of the equipment as provided in the emission reduction quantification protocol.
- h. Emission reductions may be issued quarterly or semi-annually, based on the actual activity level for the previous quarter or six-months.
- i. Emission reductions may be held in a broker account, for tracking purposes, until transferred to an employer for rule compliance purposes.

- j. The application shall be deemed a plan, and plan fees shall be assessed in accordance with Rule 308 – On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options Fees.
- k. Emission reductions generated from projects that are in excess of those designated for Rule 2202 compliance may be used for other purposes subject to the approval of the Executive Officer.

SCAQMD staff is available to work with project proponents to develop emission reduction protocols and intends to compile protocols, when available, to ensure public accessibility.

G.H. General Emission Credit Provisions (R2202, subdivisions (h))

Employers that implement an emission reduction program and have surplus emission reductions with respect to some of the pollutants can use them towards their future ERT or trade or sell them to other employers in accordance with subdivision (h) of Rule 2202. Alternatively, employers that have a shortfall in meeting their ERTs may obtain surplus emission credits from other employers or other credit providers.

Once eligible emission credits have been transferred into the Rule 2202 program, the credits may be placed into a Rule 2202 program broker account or an employer's emission bank. Emission credits that have been transferred into the Rule 2202 program cannot be transferred out of or removed from this program in accordance with subdivision (h) of Rule 2202.

H.I. Inter-Pollutant Crediting (R2202, paragraph (h)(6))

Any employer or the AQIP may apply VOC or NO_x emission credits in lieu of all or part of a worksite's CO emission reduction target. VOC or NO_x emission credits that could be used may come from various sources such as ASCs, STERCs, ERCs in the Rule 2202 program, MSERCs, or credits generated pursuant to paragraphs (f)(5) or (f)(6) of the rule. Inter-pollutant crediting is to be used only by employers to facilitate meeting the worksite's CO emission reduction target. Inter-pollutant crediting shall only be used for compliance with an approved employer's Rule 2202 registration. Inter-pollutant crediting shall not be used to increase or build a CO emission bank. The inter-pollutant crediting ratios are:

- 1 pound VOC = 10 pounds CO
- 1 pound NO_x = 6 pounds CO

For example: An employer calculated their worksite CO emission reduction target to be 100 pounds. Instead of generating or purchasing CO emission credits, the employer may implement inter-pollutant crediting by dividing the CO target by VOC ratio value of 10. Thus, 10 pounds of VOC could be used in lieu of the worksite's 100 pound CO emission reduction target. Alternatively, an employer may chose to apply NO_x credits. Dividing

100 lbs of CO by 6 will result in 17 pounds of NO_x that may be used in lieu of the worksite's CO emission target. Note that calculation results are to be rounded to the nearest whole pound. Employers are not limited to using only VOC or NO_x and may use any combination of the two pollutants to meet the calculated emission reduction target.

J. Emission Reduction Requirements

Any proposed emission reduction strategy should contain an emissions or trip quantification methodology which follows applicable SCSouth Coast AQMD, CARB, or USEPA policies and methodologies. Any proposed program may be submitted in combination with other programs, including, but not limited to, old vehicle scrapping or work-related trip reduction programs. SCSouth Coast AQMD will evaluate programs to assure that they produce emissions or trip reductions that are real, surplus, quantifiable, and enforceable.

1. Real Reductions

"Real" reductions are those that result in actual emission reductions and do not occur as a result of accounting practices, or "paper reductions." The key test in determining whether a strategy will result in real reductions is in establishing a proper emissions or trip baseline level. If, for example, facility XYZ has reduced emissions in excess of those required by the ERT, no "real" reductions will result from the establishment of ERT as a performance standard. Therefore, all quantification methodologies will be required to establish a standardized baseline condition, or use a default condition established by the Executive Officer, from which to calculate real emissions or trip reductions.

2. Surplus Reductions

"Surplus" reductions occur when an action is taken beyond existing regional, state, and federal requirements. Obtaining surplus emission reductions means the benefit of a control strategy is not "double counted." In many cases, the proposed strategy requirements overlap completely with another rule, regulation, statute, or legislation. However, by revising the strategy to become more stringent, the action would become partially creditable, or surplus. To meet this surplus criterion, all quantification methodologies will be required to include a mechanism for subtracting any regulatory overlaps with the standardized baselines established to meet the "real" criterion described earlier.

3. Quantifiable Reductions

Although transportation control measures (TCM) involve some degree of variance and uncertainty, creditable actions can be quantified through use of assumptions that are based either on case studies or on transportation supply and demand theories. Each assumption that is used to assign effectiveness or efficiency should be matched with either a case study, or on some measurable parameter. Basic "intuition," especially for indirect actions such as general education, "goodwill," or other "good faith efforts," is not sufficient. Quantifiability is the main criterion used to determine the extent of any credit discounting. Those actions which are more easily quantified, with strong assumptions,

would have limited discounting applied, while the more "intuitive" actions would need to be discounted to a much greater extent.

4. Enforceable

In addition, each proposed program should include a recordkeeping mechanism for compliance verification, as outlined in Chapter IV. The enforceability component requires that all records, sufficient to demonstrate compliance, be maintained by participating companies and be made available to the [SCSouth Coast AQMD](#) upon request.

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III. TRIP REDUCTION STRATEGIES

(R2202, subdivision (g))

Rule 2202 offers employers the opportunity to obtain VTECs from the implementation of the following optional trip reduction strategies. These VTECs, obtained through peak-commute trip reductions, other work-related trip reduction, VMT offsets or off-peak commute trip reductions, can be applied towards meeting an employer's ERT.

A. Peak Commute Trip Reductions

Rule 2202 provides the option to obtain credit for reducing employee commute trips. Specifically, employers can reduce trips to work that occur for the purpose of reporting to work during the morning peak congestion period (or "Peak Window") by creating incentives for ridesharing and other alternative transportation modes. VTECs shall be calculated using the formula in Figure III-1.

$$\text{VTEC} = \left[\frac{\text{Creditable Commute}}{\text{Vehicle Reductions (CCVR)}} \right] \times \left[\frac{\text{Emission Factor (EF)}}{\text{lbs/year}} \right]$$

Where:

CCVR = The daily average of total commute vehicle reductions that are real, enforceable, surplus, and quantifiable.

EF = Annual Emission Factor (lbs/year/daily commute vehicle)

Figure III-1. Vehicle Trip Emission Credit Generation for Work-Related Trip Reduction Programs

In calculating VTEC, employers may utilize data obtained by an alternative methodology approved in writing by the Executive Officer or designee.

B. Other Work-Related Trip Reductions

Employers may receive additional VTECs from employee commute reductions from peak and non-peak commutes or from non-commute vehicle usage. VTECs from Other Work-Related Trip Reductions can be calculated using the formula in Figure III-2. The conversion factor is used to convert vehicle trip reductions to commute vehicles reductions and accounts for the return trip home, and includes an additional adjustment to account for other vehicle usage reduction during and outside the peak window.

Other sources of VTEC may also be calculated, on a voluntary basis, from non-regulated worksites, non-employee such as independent contractors, or employees of other entities at the worksite that participate in the employer's trip reduction program. Additional VTEC may also be determined from reduced staffing that would reduce commute trips not as a result of any rideshare program. Reduced staffing may occur from events such as school recesses/breaks, inventory, or temporary facility closures.

The use of VTEC is subject to approval by the Executive Officer.

$$\text{VTEC} = \left[\frac{\text{Creditable Trip Reductions (CTR)}}{\text{CF}} \right] \times \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Emission Factor (EF)} \\ \text{lbs/year} \end{array} \right]$$

Where:

CTR = The daily average of total one-way trip reductions that are real, enforceable, surplus, and quantifiable. A round trip is considered to be two one-way trips.

CF = 2.0 for A.M. Peak Window
2.3 for Other Trips

EF = Annual Emission Factor (lbs/year/daily commute vehicle)

Figure III-2. Vehicle Trip Emissions Credit Generation for Peak-Commute and Other Work Related Trip Reduction Programs

C. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Programs

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is an alternative measuring tool for determining transportation related impacts by measuring total vehicle travel by the number of vehicle trips and the length of each trip.

Employers may elect to implement VMT reduction programs and receive VTECs toward their ERT. Reduction of annual employee commute VMT that may result from employment center relocation, video-conference centers, telecommuting centers or other alternative programs approved by the Executive Officer or designee. The Executive Officer shall not approve any VTEC program for VMT reduction unless it includes baseline VMT estimates and demonstrates that VMT reductions result in real, enforceable, quantifiable, and surplus emission reductions.

D. Parking Cash-Out Program

Employers may elect to implement a Parking Cash-Out Program to reduce employee commutes and receive VTEC toward meeting their ERT. Parking Cash-Out is a program where an employer offers to provide a cash allowance to an employee equivalent to the parking subsidy that the employer would otherwise pay to provide the employee with a parking space. VTEC calculation formula for this program is the same as the one used for Other Work-Related Trip Reductions.

E. Employee Commute Reduction Programs

Details of this exemption are provided elsewhere in a companion guidance document titled “Employee Commute Reduction Program Guidelines.”

IV. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

A. Registration

Employers participating in the Rule 2202 On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options emissions reduction program are required to notify the SCSouth Coast AQMD which option or options are selected through registration. Employer registration serves the purpose of both notifying the SCSouth Coast AQMD of the intent to implement options provided in the program, and also serves to identify the goals of the chosen options, including any demonstrations required. Registration shall be renewed annually.

Employers with 250 or more employees upon becoming subject to Rule 2202 shall notify ~~the~~ SCSouth Coast AQMD in writing within 30 days. Once the employer has notified ~~the~~ SCSouth Coast AQMD, within 90 days, the employer must submit a Rule 2202 registration with appropriate filing fees.

An employer's registration and the conditions under which it was approved shall remain in effect until the next approval date. Employers will not be held liable for any emission reduction shortfalls incurred due to changes in emission factors or the guidelines during those years in which the factors are updated after the registration is approved or pre-approved. Employers shall have up to 180 days from the date of receipt of their registration pre-approval letter to surrender the required emission credits to meet the worksite emission reduction target. However, the use of this provision does not change the compliance period.

B. Registration Form

Employers must identify which options will be used to attain their ERT. The registration form must include information which identifies the company and the worksites affected by the emissions reduction program, including the ~~number of employees reporting to the worksite during the morning peak congestion period and the total employee count at the worksite.~~ following information:

- i. The name of the highest ranking official, the name of the contact person, company address, and telephone numbers for all participating worksites,
- ii. Effective July 1, 2023, the business type/classification:
 - a. Worksite will designate the nature of work conducted at the worksite by selecting one option from the list provided by South Coast AQMD. The business type/classification options are office, manufacturing/industrial/warehouse, retail/entertainment/hospitality/food and dining/services, medical and health, government agency, and education.
- iii. The on-road vehicle mitigation option(s) that will be used;
- iv. TThe total number of employees that report to work in the peak window;
- v. The total number of employees at the worksite;
- vi. Effective July 1, 2024, the total VMT by employees arriving at the worksite; if a survey is conducted (or employee zip codes based on Human Resources/payroll records in a format provided by the South Coast AQMD)
- vii. Effective July 1, 2023, information on telecommuting practices (in a format

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provided by South Coast AQMD); and
viii. Calculations for VOC, NOx, and CO emissions reductions or the vehicle trip emission credit options, as applicable.

The following information on telecommuting practices will be required: the number of employees who are eligible to telecommute, the maximum number of days per week they are allowed to telecommute, the number of employees who are currently telecommuting, the average number of days per week that your employees telecommute, if any telecommute incentives are offered, and if the employees teleworking schedules are permanent or a return to office date has been set. An employer may choose to submit this information for different categories of employees at their worksite if telecommuting practices vary among the categories.

C. VTEC Calculations

Employers claiming VTECs from the implementation of the optional Vehicle Trip Reduction strategy shall include as a part of their registration all VTEC calculations. All supporting documents shall be maintained on site for three years. Emission factors (i.e., pounds of pollutant per vehicle-year) to be used in the calculations are provided in this document.

D. Air Quality Investment Program

~~SC~~South Coast AQMD's Executive Officer will determine the amount of emission reductions for air quality investment programs when proposals are submitted for approval. Individual employers seeking this safe harbor alternative are not responsible for demonstrating emissions reduction equivalency; they are only responsible for keeping records of employment, and of "in-lieu fee" submittal.

E. Recordkeeping

The enforceability component of the On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options program requires that all records, sufficient to demonstrate compliance, be maintained by participating companies for a period of no less than three years and made available to the ~~SC~~South Coast AQMD upon request in order to determine compliance. Specifically, participating companies should maintain, at a minimum, a copy of the following records at all worksites:

- Registration form,
- VTEC data and calculations, and
- List of program strategies or elements used for implementation.

F. Compliance

Compliance with an alternative emission reduction program will be determined through an employer review process conducted by the ~~SC~~South Coast AQMD. Compliance requirements for the "Employee Commute Reduction Program" exemption are included in the ECRP Guidelines.

Examples of violations of Rule 2202 would include: failure to maintain records; fabrication of records; or failure to obtain the amount of VTECs or emissions reductions identified as part of the company's registration submittal. In addition, failure to submit air quality investment "in-lieu" fees would be constituted as a violation of Rule 2202 for employers selecting this option.

G. Special Procedures

1. Extensions

Any employer may request an extension to the registration due date under the following circumstances:

- If an employer needs more time to submit a registration to meet the requirements of Rule 2202, additional time may be requested from the [SCSouth Coast AQMD](#). The request must be in writing, state the reason for the extension request, the length of time needed, and include the appropriate filing fee.
- All extension requests and fees must be received by the [SCSouth Coast AQMD](#), no later than 15 calendar days prior to the program due date;
- Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis and are granted for reasons that are beyond the control of the employer;
- An employer may request an extension to the registration due date after the registration has been disapproved for the first time. The request must be received within 15 days of the receipt of the registration disapproval. The [SCSouth Coast AQMD](#) will inform the employer in writing within 15 calendar days of receipt of request, whether the extension has been granted;
- An employer may, upon receipt of a written objection to the terms of the proposed registration by an employee, employee representative or employee organization; request a single extension of 30 days. A copy of the written objection should be attached to the request. One such request shall be granted by the [SCSouth Coast AQMD](#); no subsequent extension may be granted for this purpose; and
- Any change in the permanent due date that results in additional time to submit a registration will be considered an extension of time and shall be subject to an extension filing fee.

2. Change of Ownership

In the case of ownership mergers, or change of ownership, the new owner must notify [SCSouth Coast AQMD](#) of this change within 30 days of the new ownership. The new owner must comply with all provisions of Rule 2202 and Guidelines within 90 days of the change of ownership. The new owner(s) may choose to submit a letter, instead of a new registration, which states they will continue to implement the registration or program last approved by the SCAQMD.

3. Relocation

Any employer relocating to a new worksite must notify the [SCSouth Coast AQMD](#) within 30 days of the relocation. Relocations fall into two categories and are explained

below:

- Employers relocating within two miles of the previous worksite address may elect to continue to implement the most recently approved registration. Or, the company may elect to submit a new registration or program. The employer must inform SCSouth Coast AQMD of the preference in the notification of relocation letter.
- Employers relocating more than two miles from the previous worksite are required to submit a new registration. The employer must submit the new registration or program within 90 days of the relocation.

4. Registration Disapproval Appeals

The SCSouth Coast AQMD has 90 days to review the resubmitted registration. If the employer believes that the program meets the requirements of Rule 2202 and the Guidelines, and that the registration was improperly disapproved, the employer may appeal the disapproval to the SCSouth Coast AQMD Hearing Board. A petition for appeal of disapproval must be made within 30 calendar days after the employer receives the notice of disapproval.

5. Delay Registration Review Requests

If an employer, employee, employee representative or employee organization requests a delay in action of registration review, the request must be in writing to the SCAQMD within 10 days of registration submittal and cannot delay the period of time to exceed the 90th day after submittal.

6. Police, Sheriff, and Federal Field Agents

Police, Sheriff, and Federal Field Agents shall be included in the employee count for rule applicability but are not required to be included in the number of employees in the peak window and may be excluded from ridership surveys. Surveying only part of this group is not acceptable.

Federal Field Agents are employees who are employed by any federal agency whose main responsibility is national security and performs field enforcement and/or investigative functions. Examples of Federal Field Agents include, but are not limited to, field employees of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Customs and Border Protection or US Coast Guard.

7. Telecommute Employees

Telecommute employees are employees that work from home, off site, at a satellite office or at a telecommuting center using telecommunications tools such as email, phone, chat or video applications for a full work day that eliminates the trip to work or reduces travel distance by more than 50%. Telecommuting may also be referred to as remote work, work from home, mobile work, or distance work. Telecommuting does not include flexible or compressed work schedules.

Telecommute employees are included in the employee count for rule applicability and are required to be included in the number of employees within the peak window. Worksite telecommute activity will be reported on the annual compliance paperwork. The worksite will disclose information such as the number of eligible telecommuters, how many employees are currently participating in the telecommute program, and if the telecommute schedule is permanent or if there is a projected return to office date. Worksites will include human resources (HR) or payroll records with the annual submittal to validate telecommute activity. Reported information may impact plan submittal, based on the selected program.

AQIP – If a worksite selects the AQIP option, they may deduct the number of daily telecommuters from their average peak window employee count. The site will be required to pay the appropriate AQIP fee per average number of daily employees that physically arrive at the worksite.

ERS using default AVR – If a worksite selects the ERS option, they may deduct the number of daily telecommuters from their average peak window employee count. The site will use the number of average daily employees that physically arrive at the worksite in the calculation to determine the amount of emission credits required.

ERS with AVR survey or ECRP – If a worksite is conducting an AVR survey, they may report total daily telecommute trips on the AVR summary form. Total daily telecommute employee trips may be reported even if not all telecommute employees respond to the AVR survey. This ensures that the worksite will received full credit for the total number of commute trips reduced by telecommuting.

8. Furloughed Employees

Furloughed employees are employees that are under a temporary, unpaid leave of absence or reduction in hours. Furloughed employees should be assigned as furloughed and should continue to be employed by the site.

Furloughed employees shall be included in the employee count for rule applicability but are not required to be included in the number of employees in the peak window and may be excluded from ridership surveys. Surveying only part of this group is not acceptable.

7.9. Change of Status

An employer who has submitted an ERS and becomes exempt from the rule requirements during the compliance year after having received a provisional compliance letter may seek to have the worksite ERT prorated based on the actual operating days for the compliance year, prior to surrendering the required emission credits.

1. Employers seeking to prorate the worksite ERT must submit a plan amendment pursuant to Rule 2202 (i)(4) prior to the surrender of any emission credits.
2. The plan amendment for a prorated ERT must be submitted at least 15 calendar days prior to the credit submittal deadline of 180 days as stated in the provisional approval of the worksite's compliance plan.

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3. Plan amendments for a prorated ERT may be submitted after the 15 calendar day period and prior to the 180 day deadline only if the plan amendment is accompanied by a request to extend the 180 day deadline.
4. The worksite ERT proration shall be based on the number of operating days divided by 260 days per year.
5. Employers who have submitted the required emission credits are not eligible to prorate the worksite ERT and will not have any emission credits returned that have been surrendered.

10. Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) Training

Any site that is including an AVR survey must designate an employee to serve as the Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC). The designated employee must successfully complete a South Coast AQMD ETC training and certification course. This training provides the individual with the necessary information to conduct the AVR survey and to process and prepare survey data for each plan submittal. Additional information about ETC compliance can be found in the ECRP guidelines.

H. Emission Credit Transfers

Emission credits transferred into the Rule 2202 program shall not be transferred out of these programs unless otherwise specified in section II.C.2. of these guidelines. Transfer of emission credits into the program shall be subject to the applicable Regulation III transfer fee. This fee is not required if the buyer/transferee is a Rule 2202 regulated worksite and the emission credits are intended to be used for Rule 2202 compliance within the credit submittal cycle. The credit submittal cycle is within the 180 days from the date of receipt of a registration pre-approval letter for which employers must surrender the required emission credits.

Transfers outside of the credit submittal cycle of the buyer/transferee, between employers, non-Rule 2202 ~~SC~~South Coast AQMD emission credit accounts, or Rule 2202 broker accounts shall be subject to a transfer fee. One transaction request shall count as one transfer for fee purposes. The transfer fee is intended to cover administrative costs in processing the request and to ensure the account balance is properly tracked. No additional cost is assessed when credits are transferred during the credit submittal cycle, because the annual registration fee has already accounted for such activities.

V. EMISSION FACTORS

(R2202, subdivisions (e), (g) and (~~h~~m))

Emission Reduction Target (ERT) is the annual VOC, NO_x, and CO emissions required to be reduced by each worksite based on the number of employees reporting to work during the peak window and the appropriate Performance Zone in accordance with Rule 2202. The ERT for each pollutant, for each worksite may be calculated by using the appropriate emission factors based on CARB approved on-road mobile source emission factors (EMFAC) model.

The emission factors will be revised upon USEPA's final approval for use of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved EMFAC model in accordance with subdivision

(m) of the Rule. The Executive Office or designee will publish, on the SCSouth Coast AQMD web site, the updated emission factors within 30 days of USEPA approval.

The emission factors may be modified to site specific emission factors reflecting vehicle age and trip length characteristics of the employee vehicle fleet.

In calculating VTECs for Commute Trip Reductions, employers may also utilize data obtained by one of the following methods:

- (a) Default data based on the weighted average of the average vehicle ridership survey data of the previous three years;
- (b) Data obtained by conducting an average vehicle ridership survey in accordance with Rule 2202 - Employee Commute Reduction Program Guidelines;
- (c) Data based on the default average vehicle ridership of 1.10; or
- (d) Data obtained by an alternative methodology, which may include documentation of the CCVR claimed, approved by the Executive Officer or designee.

VI. GLOSSARY

1. ANNUAL REGISTRATION means an annual form submitted by an employer to the SCAQMD per paragraph (j)(1-3) of the Rule.
2. AREA SOURCE CREDITS (ASCs) are emission credits, issued pursuant to Regulation XXV - Intercredit Trading.
3. AVR DATA COLLECTION METHOD is a method for gathering employee commute mode data needed to calculate an employer's average vehicle ridership.
4. BROKER ACCOUNT is an account held by the [SCSouth Coast](#) AQMD, opened by any person or other entity within the Rule 2202 program that may be used to bank emission credits from emission reduction strategies as described in section II. Emission Reduction Strategies, prior to transfer or assignment for use in satisfying an employer's Emission Reduction Target.
5. BUSINESS TYPE/CLASSIFICATION is the activity type that classifies the nature of work conducted at the worksite
56. COMPRESSED WORK WEEK (CWW) applies to employees who as an alternative to completing basic work requirement in five eight-hour workdays in one week, or 10 eight-hour workdays in two weeks, are scheduled in a manner which reduces vehicle trips to the worksite. The recognized compressed work week schedules for this Rule are, but not limited to, 36 hours in three days (3/36), 40 hours in four days (4/40), or 80 hours in nine days (9/80).
67. DISABLED EMPLOYEE means an individual with a physical impairment which prevents the employee from traveling to the worksite by means other than a single-occupant vehicle.
78. EMISSION REDUCTION CREDITS (ERCs) are credits as defined in subdivision (l) of Rule 1302 Definitions and includes the permanent credit issued under Rule 1309(f)(1).
89. EMPLOYEE COMMUTE REDUCTION PROGRAM means an annual program under the Employee Commute Reduction Program option, submitted to the [SCSouth Coast](#) AQMD, in accordance with the companion guidelines.
910. EMPLOYEE is any person employed by a person(s), firm, business, educational institution, non-profit agency, or corporation, government or other entity. The term excludes seasonal employees; temporary employees; volunteers; field personnel; field construction workers; and independent contractors.
1011. FEDERAL FIELD AGENT means any employee who is employed by any federal entity whose main responsibility is National Security and performs field enforcement and/or investigative functions. This does not include employees in non-field or non-investigative functions.
1112. FIELD CONSTRUCTION WORKER means an employee who reports directly to work at a construction site.
1213. FIELD PERSONNEL means employees who spend 20% or less of their work time, per week, at the worksite and who do not report to the worksite during the

peak period for pick-up and dispatch of an employer-provided vehicle.

14. FURLOUGH means a temporary, unpaid leave of absence or reduction in hours. Furloughed employees should be assigned as furloughed and should continue to be employed by the site.

13.15. HOLIDAYS are those days designated as National and State Holidays that shall not be included in the survey period.

14.16. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR means an individual who enters into a direct written contract or agreement with an employer to perform certain services and is not on the employer's payroll.

15.17. INTER-POLLUTANT CREDITING means the use of emission reduction credits of one type of pollutant that may be used in lieu of another type of pollutant.

16.18. LOW-INCOME EMPLOYEE means an individual whose salary is equal to, or less than, the current individual income level set in the California Code of Regulations, Title 25, Section 6932, as lower income for the county in which the employer is based. Higher income employees may be considered to be "low-income" if the employees demonstrate that the program strategy would create a substantial economic burden.

17.19. MOBILE SOURCE EMISSION REDUCTION CREDITS (MSERCs) are emission reduction credits issued pursuant to Regulation XVI - Mobile Source Offset Programs.

18.20. PART-TIME EMPLOYEE means any employee who reports to a worksite on a part-time basis fewer than 32 hours per week, but more than four hours per week. These employees shall be included in the employee count for purposes of Rule applicability; and for emission reduction calculations of the employer provided the employees report to the worksite during the Peak Commute Window.

19.21. PEAK COMMUTE WINDOW is the period of time, Monday through Friday between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

20.22. PERFORMANCE ZONE for each worksite is determined by its geographic location within the geographic boundaries as described in Attachment I of Rule 2202.

21.23. POLICE/SHERIFF means any employee who is certified as a law enforcement officer and is employed by any state, county or city entity. Such employees are only police officers and sheriffs who perform field enforcement and/or any investigative functions. This would not include employees in non-field or non-investigative functions.

22.24. SEASONAL EMPLOYEE means a person who is employed for less than a continuous 90-day period or an agricultural employee who is employed for up to a continuous 16-week period.

23.25. SHORT TERM EMISSION REDUCTION CREDITS (STERCs) are credits as defined in subdivision (am) of Rule 1302 - Definitions.

24.26. STUDENT WORKERS are students who are enrolled and gainfully employed (on the payroll) by an educational institution. Student workers who work more than four hours per week are counted for Rule applicability and if they report to

work during the 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. window are counted for emission reduction calculations

~~25~~27. TELECOMMUTING means occurs when an employee worksing at home, off-site away from the worksite, or at a telecommuting center, using telecommunications tools such as email, phone, chat, or video applications for a full workday that eliminates the trip to work or reduces travel distance by more than 50%. Telecommuting may also be referred to as remote work, work from home, mobile work, or distance work. Telecommuting does not include flexible or compressed work schedules

~~26~~28. TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE means any person employed by an employment service or agency that reports to a worksite other than the employment agency's worksite, under a contractual arrangement with a temporary employer. Temporary employees are only counted as employees of the temporary agency for purposes of Rule applicability.

29. TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OR TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (TMA/TMO) means a private/non-profit association that has a financial dues structure joined together in a legal agreement for the purpose of achieving mobility and air quality goals and objectives within a designated area.

~~27~~30. VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (VMT) means the number of miles traveled by a motor vehicle for a worksite commute trip.

~~28~~31. VOLUNTEER means any person(s) at a worksite who, of their own free will, provides goods or services, without any financial gain.

~~29~~32. WORKSITE EMPLOYEE THRESHOLD means 250 employees employed at a single worksite for the prior consecutive six-month period calculated as a monthly average and 33 or more employees scheduled to report to work during the Peak Commute Window any one day during the prior consecutive 90 days.